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BOOK NOTICES.

Noms géographiques de la Province de Québec et des Provinces Maritimes, empruntés aux langues sauvages. Avec carte indiquant les territoires occupés autrefois par les races aborigènes, Etymologie, traduction et orthographe, Par Eugène Rouillard. Ed. Marcotte, Québec, 1906.

To the majority of general readers, etymologizing of names, particularly of local ones derived from Indian tongues, appears little more than a work of harmless curiosity. And yet, valuable information can be derived, and is, for history and principally for ethnography. But it is a delicate field to tread, one in which enthusiasm may lead us dangerously astray. The author is conscious of that danger, and dissertations of his like those on the names: *Acadie, Canada, Gaspé, Québec*, which we select as most generally familiar, show that he feels his way quite carefully through the maze of aboriginal and European words that have entered into the composition of local Canadian names. The map of distribution of the Indians over New France is a fair outline sketch.

It strikes us that Mr. Rouillard might have done well to pay some attention to the earliest Spanish, Portuguese and, in connection with them, Italian (for instance, Ramusio) literature as far as it concerns the subsequent French possessions in North America. These sources, not to forget Peter Martyr, preserve some of the local names as they were first heard. Of course, they may be misunderstandings in that they applied to something else than places and regions, and they certainly are, even if properly applied, much misspelled, but they are the earliest terms heard, and they should be taken into account when the geographical vocabulary of the region is discussed. In regard to tribes represented both in Canada and in the United States, authors like Adair, Morgan and Hale would, it is likely, have been of some service to the author, especially where very important stocks like the Iroquois are referred to.

A. F. B.

Man and Earth.—The Reciprocal Relations and Influences of Man and His Environment. By Alfred Kirchhoff. Translated by A. Sonnenschein. vii and 223 pp. George Routledge & Sons, London, and E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. (Price, 1s.)

This little book is a translation of Prof. Kirchhoff's "Mensch und Erde" which has become very popular in Germany. It is an able and brilliant description of the features of some parts of the world and of their influence on the spread of civilization. The excellent English translation, made into a book adapted for the pocket, will be heartily welcomed. An introductory chapter sets forth the interaction between man and his geographical environment and draws the conclusion that in the present state of our knowledge we cannot doubt that the power exercised by our planet over the human race is greater than that of the race over the planet.

The topics of the other chapters are the influence of the sea in the life of nations, the peoples of the steppes and deserts, the influence of man on the landscape, the British Isles and Britons, America and the Americans, Germany and the Germans, and China and the Chinese. The chapter on America is supplied by Professor Sonnenschein, the translator, who has also written a considerable number of foot-notes.

The book is crowded with illustrations of the relations between man and geography, and we know of no source from which teachers can draw more edifying and interesting material for the class room relating to those phases of geography with which this little volume deals. Professor Kirchhoff is not only a storehouse of facts, but his gift of imagination cements the material he uses into a finished scientific and literary product, which is as interesting as it is instructive to all intelligent readers.

Die Städte geographisch betrachtet. Von Professor Dr. Kurt Hassert. vi and 137 pp., 21 Illustrations. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1907. (Price, M. 1.)

Dr. Hassert, Professor of Geography at the Commercial High School in Cologne, is widely known as an authority on economic geography. This book is an expansion of four lectures delivered in October, 1906, on the development of cities and the influences that shape and characterize them. It treats of the causes that lead to aggregations of people in towns and cities, the height above the sea level of such settlements (most cities being built on plains or lowlands), the industrial and commercial types of cities, relation of cities to the land trade routes, the growth of cities and development of the metropolis, relation between urban population and the number of dwellings, the separation of the residence and business quarters, building material, street names, etc. The book is the outcome of a close study of urban development in all times. It abounds with curious as well as pregnant information and is to be commended as a bit of geographical literature that is very readable and also contributes to our general knowledge of one of the greatest of social factors.

Les Lacs Alpains Suisses. Étude Chimique et Physique. Par le Dr. Félix-Ernest Bourcart. Georg et Cie., Genève, 1906.

Thirty-three small alpine lakes, ranging in altitude from 643 meters (Amsoldingen, Bern) to 2,388 m. (Schotten, Grisons) are in this volume illustrated by beautiful photographic vignettes, described according to their physical and chemical properties.

The author says—"Basing upon the nature of the basin of supply (alimentation) in comparison with the waters of each lake, we succeed in grouping them so as to obtain a rational classification of all alpine lakes." Although the lakes examined by the author are not "all" those of the Swiss Alps, we abide by the author's classification into two main groups, one, where the chemical basis of the soil is silicious, and the other, where it is calcareous. Of the former he enumerates 15, of the latter 18. These two groups are again subdivided according to the size of the supply basins.

The researches seem to have been made with the greatest possible care and precision. The physical conditions were studied *in situ*, the surrounding topography carefully observed and noted, the nature of the soil to a certain distance above the lake and the composition of rocks determined; the temperature of the air, of the water, at surface and greatest depth, its transparency and colour noted, and the same researches were practiced in a measure in regard to supply basins, affluents, and springs, in cases where the latter were feeders of the lake. The depths observed vary between m. 4 and m. 83.6, and it is to be regretted that in the case of the latter the temperature at the bottom could not be ascertained. In the case of Lake Silvaplana the difference of temperature between surface and bottom (m. 77) was 5 degrees centigrade.